

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 2005 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.

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:

China, Hong Kong

Databases

International trade by Commodity Statistics

Monthly Statistics of International Trade

Main Developments for 2006

General aspects:

After the full migration from Oracle/Express to SQL in 2005, the design and use of new functionalities, data management and documentation will be fully synchronised between UNSD and OECD.

In 2006, data quality and timeliness could be further improved (namely 2005 provisional data should be available by mid-2006 for all OECD countries and final data by mid-September).

Data management:

Migration of metadata into MetaStore.

International Trade Statistics

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 is driving new developments.

Objectives and outputs

An annual joint effort publication with Eurostat and database: "OECD Statistics on International Trade in Services". 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 27 member countries and Hong Kong SAR.

Promotion with other sponsoring agencies of "The Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services" (MSITS). The implementation of its recommendations in OECD countries will be discussed with Eurostat and OECD experts. A report on MSITS implementation and data quality will be submitted to the experts and the IMF.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Brazil, China, India, Russian Federation, South Africa

Databases

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

Main Developments for 2006

General aspects:

Launch work with partner agencies on updating of Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services, starting with a worldwide consultation.

Expand published trade in services data by partner country using new facilities in Statworks and OECD.stat. Monitor progress in the implementation of MSITS recommendations. Contribution to revision work of BPM5, where it is related to trade in services.

Contribute to OECD analytical work on south-south trade in services, measuring offshoring and improving data on remittances.

Develop cooperation with UNSD on worldwide database on trade in services.

Data management:

The OECD Statistical Programme of Work 2006, Part II

Databases were migrated to StatWorks in 2005. In 2006 work to improve functionality of Statworks for this dataset will be carried out.

International Trade Statistics

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

Collects and maintains 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)

Databases

Monthly Statistics of International Trade (MSIT)

Main Developments for 2006

General aspects:

Improvement of consistency and timeliness with regard to other OECD databases and of data capture techniques.

Data collection:

Migration from Oracle/Express to SQL. Extension of availability of volume data.