



STATISTICS DIRECTORATE

National Accounts and Economic Statistics - Services

Item 21) d) ii): Trade in Services Links to Industry Data ?

**7th OECD INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS EXPERTS MEETING ITS
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Trade in Services Links to Industry Data?

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International trade in services in the balance of payments is classified according to the Extended Balance of Payments Services (EBOPS) Classification. This is mainly a product classification, with some significant exceptions related to transactors such as *Travel, Government services* n.i.e, part of *Construction services*.

OECD FDI statistics, FATS statistics, Enterprise statistics and National Accounts Output statistics are all collected at least in part according to the International Standard Industry Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC) Revision 3.

Merchandise trade statistics are reported according to the International Customs Organisation product classification - Harmonised System (HS) 2002 and aggregated to Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Revision 3. A concordance maps the trade products to their industry of origin in ISIC. An Ad hoc OECD Group has been established to advance work on linking merchandise trade and enterprise data.

For trade in services, while an approximate concordance of EBOPS to ISIC exists in the ICFA classification, a quick examination shows it is a very weak concordance. In fact service products generally have a weaker link (if any link at all) to industries of origin than do goods. The consequence is that analysts are unable to link well trade in services with other datasets, that can be linked to ISIC. A further side effect is that trade in services continues to be poorly understood in economic analysis.

An increasing number of countries are using enterprise surveys or direct reporting to measure trade in services. It would be of considerable analytical interest to know if any countries are able to provide, actually or potentially, any tables of trade in services broken down by product (based on EBOPS) and by industry (ISIC).

In order to address analytical requests received, a small-scale feasibility study is proposed to draw together available trade in services information broken down by industry and to the extent possible EBOPS, as well as assess countries potential to provide such information. If agreed OECD would produce a report for the OECD-Eurostat Experts on Trade in Services Statistics 2007.

Delegates are invited to:

- i) discuss what information is available (or potentially available) on trade in services broken down by industry and by product (based on EBOPS);*
- ii) comment on the proposal of a feasibility study and whether they would be willing to participate.*