

# International Trade Statistics

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## 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 2006 ITS expert meeting attracted 120 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:

China, Hong Kong

### Databases

International trade by Commodity Statistics

Monthly Statistics of International Trade

### Main Developments for 2007

#### General aspects:

After the full migration from Oracle/Express to SQL in 2006, the design and use of new functionalities, data management and documentation are now fully synchronised between UNSD and OECD.

In 2007, data quality and timeliness of processed data should be further improved (namely 2006 provisional data was available by mid-2006 for all OECD countries and final data by mid-September - this excellent result will be further improved through better IT tools in processing for output data).

The Trade Indicators Project (TIP) as interactive Web-based analytical tool has reached maturity in 2006, is very often accessed from internal and external users. Further developments are planned in 2007 to enrich the indicators on globalisation.

A new Steering has been set up in 2006 to provide recommendations on linking Structural Business Statistics to Trade. First results are expected during 2007.

**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.

# 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 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.

Coordination of 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 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.

Organise meeting of OECD-Eurostat Experts on Trade-in services Statistics.

### 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 2007

#### General aspects:

Following the worldwide consultation in 2006, agree with partner agencies proposed changes and provide a draft of the updated Manual for further consultations with countries.

Expand published trade in services data by partner country using new facilities in Statworks and OECD.stat. Improve the timeliness and detail of publications. 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 world trade flows of services, measuring offshoring and improving OECD data on remittances flows.

The OECD Statistical Programme of Work 2007, Part II

Cooperate with Eurostat to collect partner country data on remittances.

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

# 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 2007

#### General aspects:

The full and successful migration and production to and out of OECD.Stat, the implementation of the 2006 Geo-Nomenclature and extension of seasonally adjusted series leaves little room for major improvements. Further automatisation of part of data capture and wider dissemination of MSIT modules could be envisaged.

# International Trade Statistics

## Trade-Related Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

### Purpose

To reinforce trade capacity of developing countries and countries in transition.

### Objectives and outputs

The activity is carried out in co-operation with the WTO and produces data that are presented in an annual joint OECD/WTO Report. The database contains data collected from 40 bilateral and multilateral donors and it is free available on the web site.

### Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Thailand

### Main Developments for 2007

#### General aspects:

Major change in the methodology and data collection to answer the new Aid for Trade agenda.