International Trade Statistics

Balanced International Merchandise Trade Statistics

Purpose

To estimate annual international balanced trade data without asymmetries. To make merchandise trade statistics more useful for analysis and policy use.

Objectives and outputs

To create an international benchmark dataset of merchandise trade statistics that can be used for stand-alone analysis as well as in the creation of TiVA and international Input/output tables more generally.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Main Developments for 2018

General aspects:

The next edition of the Balanced Merchandise Trade dataset will contain a longer time series and more countries (around 40) to cover 90% of the world trade.

GlobalRecalls portal

Purpose

Informing and enhancing product safety enforcement policies, as well as business and consumer awareness about safety risks and incidents, through product recall information notified by OECD and non-OECD members.

Objectives and outputs

Uploading governments' notifications about mandatory and voluntary product recalls.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

United Emirates.

Main Developments for 2018

General aspects:

New product recall taxonomy to be integrated into the portal by August 2018.

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

Maintain and update detailed international trade in services by partner country, including the 35 OECD member countries, Colombia, Costa Rica, Lithuania, the Russian Federation and Hong Kong. Data are based on the concepts of the IMF's 6th Balance of Payments Manual and classified according to the detailed EBOPS Classification of Trade in Services 2010.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Colombia, Costa Rica, Hong Kong, Lithuania.

Main Developments for 2018

General aspects:

Facilitate to the extent possible links between the classifications EBOPS and CPC.
Improve the timeliness, with rolling updates, and detail of published data.

Data collection:

Pursue rolling update of trade in services by partner country data as data become available. Countries that are sent an excel questionnaire will be asked to fill it in. A second best would now be for them to provide us with their data in an SDMX format.

International Transport and Insurance Costs of Merchandise Trade (ITIC)

Purpose

Estimating Transport and Insurance Costs for International Merchandise Trade.

Objectives and outputs

The database details the bilateral, product level international trade and insurance costs for more than 180 countries and partners, over 1 000 individual products, for the 1995-2014 time period, and provides an important new tool to further understanding of global value chains, whilst also forming an important statistical input to the development of coherent and balanced bilateral trade statistics and to the TiVA database.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, China, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, South Africa, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela.

Main Developments for 2018

General aspects:

The next edition of the International Transport and Insurance Costs of Merchandise Trade (ITIC) dataset will contain longer time series.

STAN Bilateral Trade Database by Industry and End-use (BTDIxE)

Purpose

The STAN Bilateral Trade Database by industry and end-use (BTDIxE) provides estimates of annual international trade in goods according to both industrial activity and end-use categories. It can be used, for example, to analyse patterns of trade in intermediate goods between countries and thus provide insights into global production networks and supply chains. In particular, this activity is an important input into the construction of OECD's Inter-Country Input Output (ICIO) tables which are used for the measurement of Trade in Value Added (TiVA) and the development of other metrics related to global value chains (GVCs).

The BTDIxE industry list (based on ISIC Rev. 4) provides sufficient detail to enable users to highlight R&D intensive sectors and is compatible with those used in related OECD industry databases. The end-use category list includes the three broad SNA categories: capital goods, intermediate goods and household consumption. See http://oe.cd/btd.

Objectives and outputs

BTDIxE is updated on a "rolling basis", country-by-country, via standard conversion keys applied to the 6-digit "Harmonised System" (HS) commodity trade statistics maintained by the United Nations (the COMTRADE database). Certain adjustments to improve quality and international comparability are carried out as required. By Q2 2018, a maximum number of countries should be updated to 2016 – in particular, all TiVA target economies (OECD, EU, G20, APEC, ASEAN etc.)

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Asia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Europe, G20, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia, Malaysia, Malta, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Other, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Montenegro, Republic of Serbia, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovenia Former, South Africa, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, World.

Main Developments for 2018

General aspects:

Introduce more partner countries, subject to data quality and availability.

Introduce estimates of trade in second-hand goods (e.g. motor vehicles) where identifiable from more detailed (8-, 9- or 10-digit) trade statistics.

Implement tools for processing trade in goods statistics reported according to the 2017 revision of HS.

Update the BTDIxE documentation.

Trade by enterprise characteristics

Purpose

The Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (TEC) database offers a picture of trade flows between countries, offering insights into the characteristics of the firms who are engaged in cross-border trade in goods.

TEC provides a means by which to assess the contribution of real economic sectors to international trade, as well as to complement business data with detailed information on international trade, which is traditionally deemed separate from business statistics.

Objectives and outputs

The objective was to improve visibility and coverage of the Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (TEC) database and of Linking Trade and Business Statistics (of which TEC is a prominent example) with an aim for improved coherence in international economic statistics.

This involved overseeing the annual update of the TEC database, including the survey send-out, the data review and dissemination.

Canada's provision of TEC is the most timely of the countries, having already provided 2016 reference year. All other countries have provided up to 2015. For the first time this year, Israel provided TEC data to the OECD TEC database.

While Eurostat provides TEC data for all EU countries to the OECD (including 6 non-OECD EU countries - Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Lithuania, Malta and Romania), other participating OECD member countries, key partners and accession countries receive OECD TEC Survey (Linkage Table), a template based on Eurostat's Standardisation Document Rev. 2 in order to ensure comparable statistics are collected across countries. Other participating members include Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, Turkey, and the United States. Costa Rica also provides TEC data to the OECD.

After reclassification of the Eurostat data to OECD standards (ISIC and CPC classifications, USD currency and OECD geo-nomenclature), these were integrated to the Trade by enterprise characteristics (TEC) database of the OECD, available in the globalisation cube of OECD.Stat.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Lithuania, Malta.

Main Developments for 2018

General aspects:

In an effort to improve visibility and coverage of the TEC database, invitations were offered to a wider group of OECD member countries, key partners and accessions countries resulting in data collection included more recent reference years and more countries. Costa Rica and Israel are two accession countries that provided TEC data. A close cooperation with Eurostat was maintained. Communications with Turkstat, Statistics New Zealand, INEGI Mexico, Statistics Canada and US Census Bureau were augmented, and significant time was spent with each member country in support of improving their TEC measures and metadata. The instruction and metadata provided on the TEC survey was also improved, based on recurring questions from the previous year.

Given the importance of TEC collection to better capture the heterogeneity influenced by global value chains, it was notable that several EU countries began providing ownership data, which indicates the share of trade in goods accounted for my foreign MNEs operating in the country. In promotion of this database, a Statistical Insights paper was circulated and the OECD is engaged in TEC extension efforts through the Task Force on Business Demography (Eurostat) and the production of a Handbook on Linking Trade and Business Statistics.