

Statistics of International Trade in Services

A progress report

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Implementation of the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services

The Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services Web site.

The promotion and implementation of the current MSITS remains a priority. In order to assist this work a new Task Force Web site has been created, managed by UNSD,

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/tradeserv/>.

Monitoring Implementation of MSITS and Data Quality.

OECD reviewed progress in implementation of MSITS focusing on coverage, classifications and data quality. Problems are identified.

The Eurostat-OECD Methodological Soundness Questionnaire, covering the reporting of trade in services in the balance of payments, was sent out to about 40 countries in 2003 and about 30 countries have now responded.

Coordination of Technical Assistance

A training module on statistics of international trade in services has been created by the WTO/OMC, with contributions from the Task Force. This followed a request from the World Bank. The training module has been tested in seven seminars. It is available on the Web site.

IOs share information on future technical assistance events and seminars on trade in services, in order to avoid duplication and combine scarce resources where appropriate (the IMF is a focal point).

Progress and Plans to Extend Data Collection by International Organisations

OECD is compiling trade in services data from its member states - trade in services data by partner country and foreign affiliates trade in services statistics (FATS).

UNCTAD is planning a new initiative on collection of FATS.

IMF will continue efforts to collect EBOPS components for trade in services on a voluntary basis as part of the balance of payments data collection.

EU has a newly passed Regulation (2004) which instructs Eurostat to collect detailed trade in services data according to EBOPS, and are developing a Regulation on FATS statistics according to ICFA.

UNSD is developing a worldwide database on trade in services (UNITS) detailed by partner country, service category and mode of supply with intention to centrally store all available data, standardize it and make it easily available to any user with an Internet access.

Preparation of an Annex on the Movement of Natural Persons – (Mode 4)

The Technical subgroup on the Movement of Natural Persons (TSG-MNP) is created. Its first meeting was on 15-16 September in Paris.

Treatment of remittances is high on agenda.

Cooperation in compilation of the tourism statistics

The Task Force noted the need to identify conceptual differences related to tourism and travel and decided that a bridge table should be created linking SNA93, BPM5, TSA and migration statistics.

An Inter-agency Coordination Group on tourism statistics was created (World Tourism Organisation is the convener).

Revision of the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services

The Task Force concluded that following the revision of BPM5, the activity and product classifications ISIC and CPC, together with a planned chapter on Mode 4, it will be necessary to update the Manual.

The Task Force decided that the revised Manual should be produced by the end 2008 and submitted for approval by the UN Statistical Commission (March 2009). The revision would largely reflect the impact of these other developments, and will take into account experiences in implementing the Manual.

Review of The IMF Annotated Outline of BPM6

The Task Force reviewed the Annotated Outline of the revised Balance of Payments Manual (AO), for issues impacting on measurement of international trade in services and associated issues papers from the BOPTEG; written comments were provided to the IMF.