

UNCTAD - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

2. Economic Statistics (UNCTAD)

2.4 Sectoral statistics (UNCTAD)

2.4.4 Transport statistics (UNCTAD)

Maritime Transport

Ongoing work:

- Annual data on the world merchandise fleet by flag of registration and type of ship with the latest 2012 data. The statistics are released in the UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics, on-line under UNCTADstat, and in the annual Review of Maritime Transport.
- The annual UNCTAD Liner Shipping Connectivity Index, by country with the latest 2012 data. The statistics are released in the UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics, on-line under UNCTADstat, and in the annual Review of Maritime Transport.
- Annual data on the world merchandise fleet by country of ownership for the 35 largest vessel-owning countries, included each year in the UNCTAD Review of Maritime Transport.
- Annual containerized port traffic, by country, included each year in the UNCTAD Review of Maritime Transport.
- Annual World Seaborne Trade, by country groupings, included each year in the UNCTAD Review of Maritime Transport.
- Annual and for some time series quarterly data on vessel prices, orders, and demolitions, published annually in the UNCTAD Review of Maritime Transport.
- On-line port traffic statistics available under UNCTADstat ranging from 2008 to 2010. The data present the total number of containers handled by a port per country.

2.6 International trade and balance of payments (UNCTAD)

Creative Economies statistics

Ongoing work:

- Since 2008, UNCTAD updates the **Global Database on the Creative Economy** which is publicly accessed at www.unctad.org/creative-economy and at **UNCTADstat** <http://unctadstat.unctad.org/ReportFolders/reportFolders.aspx>. The database presents a pioneer work by providing world trade statistics on creative goods and services on the basis of data reported by national sources to the United Nations. The aim is to provide data for a comprehensive trade analysis with a view to support governments in policy-making and improve market transparency in areas related to the creative economy. This work was widely disseminated through the **Creative Economy Reports of 2008 and 2010**.
- By the end of 2012, the database was updated to provide trade statistics on creative goods and services up to 2011.

2.7 Prices (UNCTAD)

Commodity Prices

Ongoing work

- Data collection and processing: Update of monthly and annual commodity prices and calculation of price indices, using the year 2000 as base year.
- Data dissemination in UNCTADstat.
- Annual calculation of price instability indices.

Methodological work:

- Plan to update the base year and composition of commodities along with their weight in the calculation of indices.
- Plan to add new emerging commodities with importance to developing economies.

3. Environment and multi-domain statistics (UNCTAD)

3.3 Multi-domain statistics and indicators (UNCTAD)

3.3.3 Information society (UNCTAD)

ICT Statistics

Ongoing work

Methodological work

- UNCTAD works in close collaboration with the members of the global Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development (ITU, OECD, UNCTAD, UNEP/SBC, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the World Bank, four UN Regional Commissions (ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA), UN-DESA and Eurostat). UNCTAD is part of the Steering Committee of the Partnership (with ITU and ECLAC). The Partnership core list of ICT indicators, which was endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission at its 38th session in 2007, was revised during 2008 and was presented to the UNSC in February 2009. A further revision was presented to and endorsed by the UNSC in February 2012.
- The revised version of the UNCTAD Manual for the Production of Statistics on the Information Economy aims to help National Statistical Offices in their production of information economy statistics. It is now available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. The UNCTAD website on ICT measurement (<http://measuring-ict.unctad.org>) serves as an online source of information on indicators, data, metadata and methodology.
- UNCTAD is contributing to the development of relevant methodologies to measure the information economy. With financial support from the Government of Sweden (Sida), a three-year project will among other things seek to develop core indicators related to trade in ICT services and ICT-enabled services. UNCTAD will also be engaged in methodological work related to gender-disaggregated ICT data. In both cases, the work will be conducted with the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development as well as other relevant stakeholders.

Data collection and processing

- Since 2004, UNCTAD has been collecting data from statistical offices in developing countries on the core list of ICT business and ICT sector indicators through an annual questionnaire sent to National Statistical Offices worldwide. Survey results feed the UNCTAD information economy database that comprises official data on business use of ICT in countries, classified by size of enterprise, geographical location (urban/rural), and economic activity. These statistics as well as data on trade in ICT goods and on the ICT productive sector are now available online through UNCTADstat and are updated regularly. See: <http://unctadstat.unctad.org/ReportFolders/reportFolders.aspx>.

Technical cooperation

- UNCTAD carries out capacity building activities on ICT measurement, including the organization of training courses and contribution to regional workshops, often in cooperation with the members of the Partnership, as well as advisory services to NSOs in developing countries. UNCTAD leads the Partnership Task Group on Capacity Building (TGCB) and coordinates capacity building activities of the Partnership members. UNCTAD has conducted regional training courses for Arab countries, and in Asia-Pacific, Latin American and the Caribbean, and Francophone and Anglophone Africa. It also responds to specific bilateral requests for assistance. In 2012, the Government of Sweden (Sida) announced that it would provide financial support to UNCTAD's work over three years on building capacity of national statistical offices in the area of measuring the information economy.

Priority objectives beyond 2012

- Methodological work related to the gender-dimension of ICT statistics and to trade in ICT services and ICT-enabled services. Continued capacity building on ICT statistics for NSOs, including delivery of the Training Course at the regional level and advisory services at the national level. Further dissemination of ICT Core Indicators, including on-line.

New work to be undertaken in 2013

- Updating of information economy statistics in UNCTADstat. Capacity building and technical assistance to developing countries in Latin America and Africa with regard to measuring the information economy. Translation of UNCTAD's Manual for the Production of Statistics on the Information Economy into Russian and Portuguese. In terms of methodological work, UNCTAD will launch new work related to the measurement of trade in ICT services and ICT-enabled services as well as gender-related ICT statistics in collaboration with other members of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development. **3.3.4 Globalisation (UNCTAD)**

Ongoing work

- Methodological work: Calculation of indicators to monitor the financial crisis and its impact on the real economy in developing economies and economies in transition. Data are released in UNCTAD flagship reports.
- Participation in the Globalization Session of the Statistical Working Party of the OECD Committee on Industry and Business Environment, in particular, as regards the preparation of the Manual of Economic Globalization Indicators.
- Data collection and processing: continuous update of the TNC database.

New activities

- Collection of data on the operations of TNCs and their foreign affiliates.
- Guidance to developing countries wishing to adopt internationally agreed recommendations for the compilation of data on the operations of TNCs and their foreign affiliates.

4. Methodology of data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis (UNCTAD)

4.5 Dissemination, data warehousing (UNCTAD)

UNCTAD Statistical Information system (USIS)

Purpose

The UNCTAD Statistical Information System (USIS) is designed as a tool to validate, store, process and share reference datasets used by the economists of the secretariat and disseminated through the UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics and UNCTADstat on the Internet. Methodologies and procedures used to process statistics and to calculate derived indicators were reviewed accordingly. Sources, concepts, definitions, classifications and processes have been documented and made available to users. Great attention is devoted to the provision of metadata at all levels. Principle 4 of the 'Principles Governing International Statistical Activities' is a guiding benchmark during the development and implementation of USIS.

Objectives and outputs

Improvement of the quality and consistency of the statistics prepared and released by UNCTAD. More efficient, secured and documented procedures are used for the compilation, processing, storage and dissemination of statistics. The capacities for the calculations of indicators requiring important IT resources are being improved.
