

UNCTAD - UN 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. 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. 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.

2.6 International trade and balance of payments (UNCTAD)

Foreign Direct Investment

Methodological work:

Participation in the joint working group EUROSTAT "FATS (foreign affiliates statistics)", OECD's Working Group on International Investment Statistics, and IMF Balance of Payments Statistics Committee.

Data collection and processing:

- Continuous update of the FDI database (FDI flows and stocks) and operations of TNCs (activities of foreign affiliates and parent firms). UNCTAD maintains and regularly updates its databases on FDI, activities of TNCs, cross-border M&As and largest TNCs and disseminate the data through its annual report, World Investment Report, and UNCTADstat.
- Collection of FDI flow and stock data in line with internationally agreed recommendations, and dissemination of FDI data, including metadata and related information, through the UNCTAD data extract service.

Technical cooperation:

A national workshop on FDI statistics was held in Viet Nam in July 2010 and in Congo DRC in June 2010. A second regional workshop on FDI Data compilation and Common Reporting System in COMESA Countries was held in Swaziland in November 2010 as part of the joint initiative with the COMESA Secretariat. An e-learning course on "Statistics of foreign direct investment (FDI) and operations of transnational corporations (TNCs)" is also being implemented. This course will accommodate all levels of practitioners - from novice to very experienced - and a broad range of interest areas in learning and deepening knowledge on the methodologies of FDI statistics.

Planned activities for 2011:

- UNCTAD Workshop on FDI Trends and the Methodology in Collecting Data on FDI and TNC Activities in the Six Countries in Latin America (March 2011, Peru).
- National Workshop on outward FDI, Saudi Arabia (first quarter of 2011).
- Advisory Services on FDI Statistics in Guatemala: Workshop on Survey Methodologies in Collecting Data on FDI and TNC activities (first half of 2011).

Foreign Trade Statistics

Ongoing work:

Methodological work:

- Participation in the Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics.
- Preparation of the total merchandise trade statistics of Least Developed Countries that are integrated into the Common Data Set (CDS) which is a joint effort by Eurostat, OECD, UNSD, UNCTAD and WTO to reconcile their time series on merchandise trade statistics, using international standards as a benchmark.
- Calculation of volume, price and terms of trade indices and trade analytical indicators published in the UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics and on-line in UNCTADstat.
- Development of the South-South Trade Information System providing comprehensive information on bilateral trade flows at the product level between developing countries and including own estimates for country-periods missing in the COMTRADE database.

Market Access Information

Ongoing work:

Methodological work:

- Contribution to the maintenance and updating of the Common Analytical Market Access Database (CAMAD) among UNCTAD, ITC and WTO.
- Upgrade of WITS software in collaboration with the World Bank and ITC.

Data collection and processing:

- Update of the Database on Trade Control Measures covering tariff, Para-tariff and non-tariff measures disseminated in TRAINS (Trade Analysis and Information System).

New activities:

- Preparation of data for the third publication of the World Tariff Profile (joint publication with WTO and ITC).

Trade in Services

Ongoing work:

Methodological work:

Participation in the work of the Inter-agency Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (TFSITS) and contribution to the preparation of the revised Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services to be published in early 2010.

Data collection and processing:

In light of the recommendation by UNSC, compilation of foreign affiliate trade in services statistics (FATS).

New activities:

- Implementation of the recommendations of the manual on trade of services.
- Collection of data on the operations of TNCs and foreign affiliates in host economies, including those in the services sector.
- Guidance to developing countries wishing to adopt internationally-agreed recommendations for the compilation of data on the operations of TNCs and their foreign affiliates in the services sector.
- Dissemination of such data, including metadata, through UNCTADstat and the Handbook of Statistics.
- Technical cooperation: In the framework of a MOU signed between UNCTAD and UEMOA, preparation of the regulation and statistical infrastructure needed for the collection and analysis of statistics on exports and imports of services in order to enable member states to define policies that are consistent with their development objectives.

2.7 Prices (UNCTAD)

Commodity Prices

Ongoing work:

- Data collection and processing: Update of the commodity prices database and calculation of price indices, using the year 2000 as base year. Dissemination of the data in UNCTADstat.

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, 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.

The revised version of the UNCTAD Manual for the Production of Statistics on the Information Economy was presented to the UNSC in February 2009. The document aims to help statistical offices in developing countries 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.

An international conference on Information Society measurement was organized in July 2010 in Seoul, Korea. It reviewed progress in ICT statistics and discussed emerging subjects such as ICT in education, measuring the social and economic impact of ICT, and ICT in government. For more information, see <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/ict/>.

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. Survey results are also reflected in the analyses published in the annual UNCTAD Information Economy Report (www.unctad.org/ier2010).

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 in Asia-Pacific, Latin American and the Caribbean, and Francophone and Anglophone Africa.

Priority objectives beyond 2010:

Further revision of the Manual for the Production of Statistics on the Information Economy. 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. Methodological work on the measurement of ICT impact and of trade in ICT services.

New work to be undertaken in 2011:

Inclusion of information economy statistics in UNCTADstat and the UN Data Portal.**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 the UNCTAD website. 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.

Main developments for 2010:

UNCTAD's online statistical databases, the Handbook of Statistics, the Commodity Prices and Price Indices, the Foreign Direct Investment Statistics, and the Global Databank on World Trade in Creative Products have been harmonized and integrated into UNCTADstat. This unique platform used for the on-line dissemination of all statistics produced by UNCTAD was launched on 20 October 2010 at the occasion of the World Statistics Day. The on-line version of the UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics is discontinued.
