



TECHNICAL NOTES

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1 CONCEPTS AND METHODS

1.1 International trade statistics

1.1.1 Merchandise trade

The compilation of international merchandise trade statistics relies principally on customs records complemented, as appropriate, by additional sources to enhance their coverage (for instance, to include electricity, or trade in vessels and aircrafts). These statistics essentially reflect the physical movement of goods across borders.

1.1.1.1 Trade system

Two systems of recording merchandise exports and imports are in common use: the general trade system and the special trade system. The two systems differ mainly in the way warehoused and re-exported goods are treated.

To the extent possible, total merchandise trade is defined according to the **general trade** system. It covers all types of inward and outward movement of goods through a country or territory including movements through customs warehouses and free zones.

General trade figures are larger than the corresponding **special trade** figures because the latter exclude certain trade flows, such as goods shipped through bonded warehouses.

For further explanations, see the United Nations methodological guidelines, [International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010](#).

1.1.1.2 Trade flows

Exports of domestic goods - the outward movement of goods produced in the reporting economy, including imported foreign goods that have since been significantly transformed or enhanced in value within the reporting economy.

Re-exports of foreign goods - the export of foreign goods which have entered the reporting economy and are exiting the reporting economy in the same condition in which they entered.

Imports of foreign goods - goods entering the reporting economy.

Re-imports of domestic goods - imports of domestic goods which had previously been exported.

Note: due to the use of the general trade system for recording merchandise trade statistics, re-exports and re-imports are included in total merchandise trade.

1.1.1.3 Valuation

Free on board (**FOB**) valuation - Unless otherwise indicated, **exports** are valued at transaction value, including the cost of transportation and insurance to bring the merchandise to the frontier of the exporting country or territory.

Cost insurance and freight (**CIF**) valuation - Unless otherwise indicated, **imports** are valued at transaction value plus the cost of transportation and insurance to the frontier of the importing country or territory.

1.1.2 Trade in commercial services: Balance of Payments (BOP) and Foreign Affiliates Statistics (FATS)

For a complete measurement of international trade in services two separate but complementary statistical domains are required: (i) the **Balance of Payments (BOP)**; (ii) the **Foreign Affiliates Statistics (FATS)**.

While the BOP covers international services transactions between residents and non-residents of an economy, FATS provide a measure of services supplied by and to residents of the same economy.

The respective location of the service supplier and the consumer at the time of the service supply determine the relevant mode of supply according to the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). Similarly to trade in goods, **mode 1** (cross-border supply) takes place when both the supplier and the consumer remain in their respective home territories. The GATS covers also cases where consumers are outside their home territory to consume services (**mode 2** – consumption abroad), or where service suppliers are in the territory of the consumers to provide their services, whether by establishing affiliates through direct investment abroad (**mode 3** – commercial presence), or through the presence of natural persons (**mode 4**). This modal distinction has direct implications on the measurement of international trade in services. Services transactions in the BOP measure trade in commercial services through modes 1, 2 and 4; to estimate mode 3, it is necessary to use FATS.

FATS are a relatively recent statistical domain which provides several indicators on the operations of foreign-controlled affiliates, in which a foreign investor owns more than 50 per cent of the voting power at each stage of the ownership chain. The indicator which provides the closest measure of trade in services through mode 3 is the sales by foreign-controlled affiliates primarily engaged in services activities.

World and regional/economic grouping estimates contained in this database are entirely based on BOP statistics. Thus, they cover only trade in services through modes 1, 2, and 4.

For further explanations, see the [Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010](#).

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1.2 Market access indicators (applied, bound and preferential tariffs, non-tariff measures)

Key indicators related to market access are included in this database. Bound and applied tariffs are compiled following [the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System](#), also known as the Harmonized System (HS), a product nomenclature developed by the World Customs Organization.

The bound tariffs are based on concessions on goods that a WTO Member made in trade negotiations, or negotiated during its accession to the WTO. Applied MFN and preferential tariffs are supplied by each WTO Member. Notification of yearly applied tariffs is an obligation of each WTO member even if there exist data gaps for selected Members. Applied tariffs are also notified by non-WTO Member countries which are currently negotiating their accession to the WTO. Applied tariffs data at the level of national tariff line code applied by each country are stored in the Integrated Database (IDB). Bound tariffs are stored in the Consolidated Tariff Schedules (CTS) database. These two tariffs databases are the main sources of data used in the estimation of the indicators.

Indicators related to non-tariff measures (NTMs) are calculated based on the information notified by the WTO Members.

1.2.1 By Sector – Agricultural (AG) and Non-Agricultural (Non-AG)

There are only two sectors – agricultural (AG) and non-agricultural (Non-AG). In the World Trade Organization context, AG products are those listed in Annex 1 of the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA). The Annex defines the list of HS codes corresponding to products covered by the AoA. Products corresponding to HS codes not in this Annex are considered not covered

by the AoA and are referred to as Non-AG products. In effect, non-AG products are those in the negative list of the AoA products. This dichotomy between AG and non-AG does not necessarily correspond to the definition of agricultural products used by other international organizations, like the Food and Agricultural Organization. For example, the AoA Annex 1 does not include the HS codes for fish and fish products and thus, these products are considered non-AG products in WTO negotiations.

1.2.2 Multilateral Trade Negotiations Product Categories used in World Tariff Profiles

The Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) categories of products were originally used during the Tokyo Round of the negotiations. The classification divides products into twenty-four main product groups (23 products + Petroleum). This classification was slightly revised and adopted to the Harmonized System. Instead of the 24 main product groups of the MTN, the product categories used in the World Tariff Profiles (MTN-WTP) have 22 groups. The first ten product groups belong to the AG sector as defined above while the remaining twelve groups belong to the non-AG sector. The definition or coverage of each product group in terms of HS codes for each new HS version is included in the WTP publication.

1.2.3 Harmonized System (HS)

The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System known as the Harmonized System (HS) is an internationally adopted product nomenclature system in world trade. It has been developed and maintained by the World Customs Organization (WCO). It comprises about 5,000 commodity groups; each identified by a six digit code, arranged in a legal and logical structure and is supported by well-defined rules to achieve uniform classification. WTO members adopt the HS in their national tariff nomenclature. The HS was introduced in 1988 and has undergone several changes in the classification of products. These changes are called revisions.

The HS is a hierarchical code in which each small group of similar products is designated a 6-digit code. Each code can be broken down into three parts. The first two digits (HS-2) identify the chapter the goods are classified in; the next two digits (HS-4) identify headings within that chapter; and finally the next two digits (HS-6) refer to the subheading.

For example, HS code 09.02.10 refers to

Chapter 09 - Coffee, Tea, Maté and Spices

Heading 09.02 - Tea, whether or not flavored

Subheading 09.02.10 - Green tea (not fermented) in immediate packings ...

For more information, please see the file which contains the [full list of database codes and labels](#), including country and product group definitions.

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2 INDICATOR DEFINITIONS AND SOURCES

2.1 International trade statistics

2.1.1 Merchandise trade values

Merchandise exports by product group and destination – annual (Million US dollar) **Merchandise imports by product group – annual (Million US dollar)**

Annual statistics on merchandise exports and imports are available for over 200 economies (individual economies, selected regional agreements, regions, and world total).

When available, exports and imports by product group are published. All product groups are defined according to Revision 3 of the Standard International Trade Classification (**SITC Rev. 3**). For more information, please see the file which contains the [full list of database codes and labels](#), including country and product group definitions.

Further breakdown by destination is available for a limited number of individual reporters and regions for merchandise exports only.

Sources: annual merchandise trade data at the total world level, from 2011 onwards, are jointly produced with UNCTAD. Data are mainly sourced from national statistical sources, UN Comtrade, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) International Financial Statistics, Eurostat and the Trade Data Monitor online database. Where needed, reported data are complemented by estimates produced by the WTO.

Total merchandise exports/imports - quarterly (Million US dollar)

Quarterly statistics on total merchandise exports and imports are available for over 100 economies (individual economies, regions, and world total).

Sources: data are compiled from national data sources, as well as from WTO monthly merchandise trade statistics, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) International Financial Statistics and the Trade Data Monitor online database. If data from national sources are not available at the time of release, estimates are produced based on partner trade statistics.

Total merchandise exports/imports - monthly (Million US dollar)

Monthly statistics on total merchandise exports and imports for over 70 individual economies are available, accounting for approximately 90 per cent of world trade.

Sources: data are sourced from national statistical agency official websites. Statistics of the member states of the European Union are sourced from the Eurostat Comext online database. Additional sources include the International Monetary Fund (IMF) International Financial Statistics and the Trade Data Monitor online database.

2.1.2 Merchandise trade - indices and prices

Merchandise export/import value indices - annual (Index - (prev. year =100)) **Merchandise export/import volume indices - annual (Index - (prev. year =100))** **Merchandise export/import unit value indices - annual (Index - (prev. year =100))**

These indices present the change in value, volume, or unit value of merchandise exports/imports over the previous year (base period = previous year).

Statistics on merchandise trade in value terms (or in nominal terms, or in terms of current US dollars) reflect changes in prices and in quantities of exported and imported goods.

Statistics on merchandise trade in volume terms (or in real terms) reflect changes in the quantity only of internationally traded goods.

The unit value is a representative price of a product in a particular period. The unit value indices reflect changes in the average prices of internationally traded goods.

Sources: the value indices are calculated by the WTO based on the WTO-UNCTAD annual merchandise trade dataset. Unit value indices are sourced from national sources, ECLAC, EUROSTAT, and estimated when necessary, as a joint production of UNCTAD and the WTO. Volume indices are produced by the WTO by deflating the value indices by the unit value indices.

Merchandise export/import volume indices, not seasonally adjusted - quarterly (Index - (2005Q1=100))

Merchandise export/import volume indices, seasonally adjusted - quarterly (Index - (2005Q1=100))

Quarterly merchandise trade volume indices are published for selected regions and economies (base period = first quarter of 2005). They are presented both on a seasonally adjusted and non-seasonally adjusted basis.

Sources: the quarterly merchandise trade volume indices are jointly produced with UNCTAD. Data of individual economies are collected directly from national statistical authorities and account for about 75 per cent of world exports and 80 per cent of world imports. The world and regional estimates are produced by the WTO.

Export/import price changes of manufactured goods - monthly (monthly percentage change)

Export/import price indices of manufactured goods - monthly (Index - (January 2005=100))

The WTO compiles monthly statistics of export and import prices of manufactured goods for the United States of America, Canada, European Union, Switzerland, Japan, China, Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Taipei Chinese. Altogether, they account for approximately 85% and 75% of world exports and imports of manufactured goods, respectively.

The manufacture export and import prices are presented on a monthly percentage change basis and as monthly indices, base period = January 2005 (with the exception of Singapore, base period = March 2010).

Sources: data are sourced from national statistical agency official websites. An estimate for world prices of manufactured goods is produced by the WTO.

2.1.3 Trade in commercial services

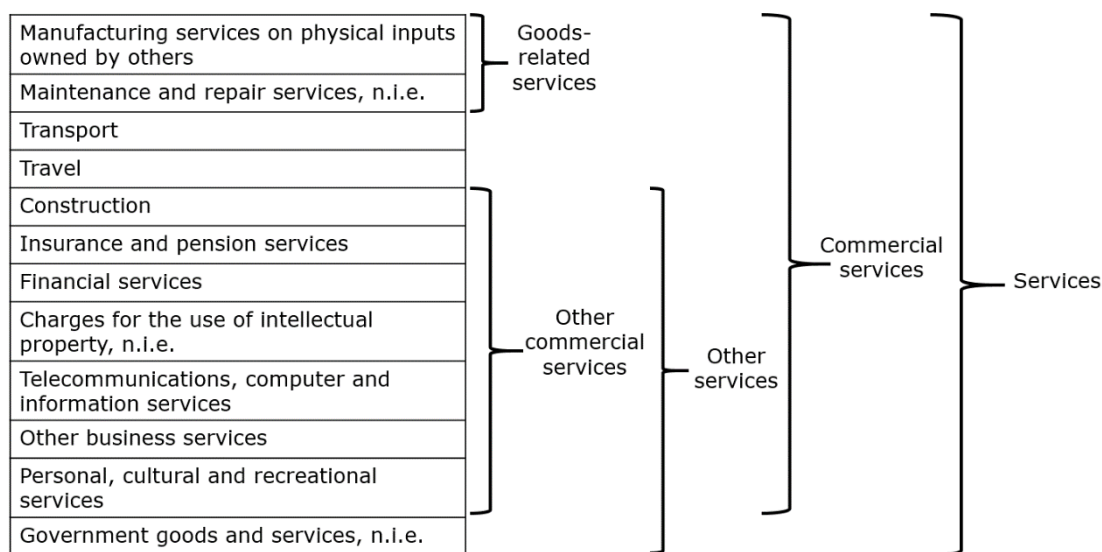
Commercial services exports/imports by sector and partner – annual (2005-onwards) (Million US dollar)

Exports and imports of commercial services are available for over 200 economies (individual economies, selected regional agreements, regions, and world total) covering around 150 service sectors.

This dataset presents exports and imports of commercial services in conformity with the Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification (EBOPS 2010), which is based on the sixth edition of the IMF Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6), but more detailed. Data are broken down by sector and by partner country when available.

In BPM6, the Services account contains 12 standard components. In this database, commercial services comprise all services categories except government goods and services, n.i.e.. Commercial services are sub-divided into goods-related services, transport, travel, and other commercial services. For more information, please see the file which contains the [full list of database codes and labels](#), including country and product group definitions.

Figure 1: Breakdown of total services (main EBOPS 2010 items)



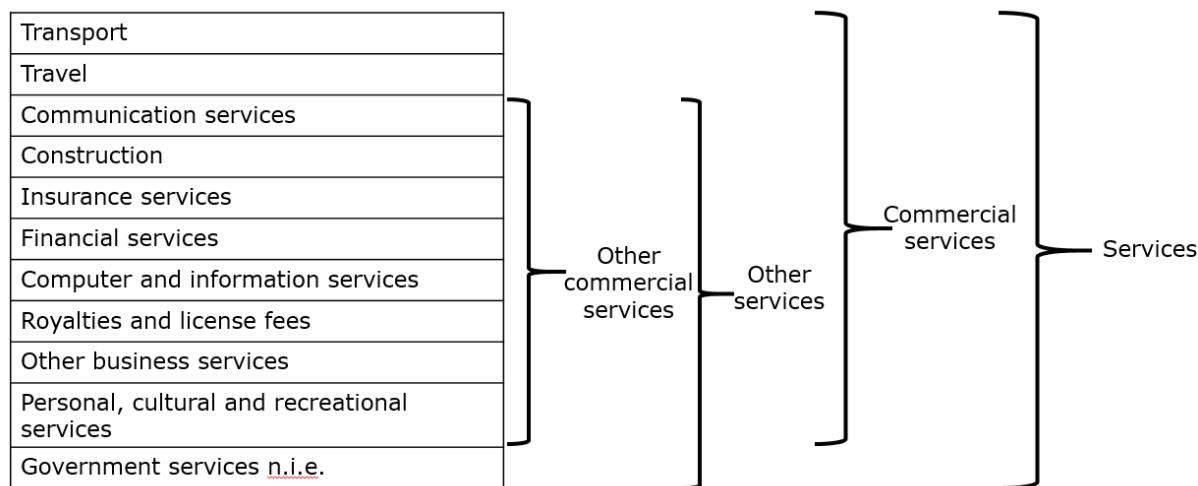
Sources: annual trade in commercial services data are jointly produced with UNCTAD and ITC. Data are sourced from Eurostat, the OECD, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and national statistical sources. Where possible, reported data are complemented by estimates produced by the WTO, UNCTAD, and ITC.

Commercial services exports/imports by sector – annual (1980-2013) (Million US dollar)

This historical dataset presents exports and imports of commercial services in conformity with the Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification (EBOPS 2002). Data is available for over 200 economies from 1980 to 2013, and covers 15 service sectors. This dataset is no longer updated.

In the fifth edition of the Balance of Payments Manual (BPM5), the Services account contains 11 standard components. In this database, commercial services comprise all services categories except government services, n.i.e.. Commercial services are sub-divided into transport, travel, and other commercial services. For more information, please see the file which contains the [full list of database codes and labels](#), including country and product group definitions.

Figure 2: Breakdown of total services (main EBOPS 2002 items)



Sources: annual trade in commercial services data are jointly produced with UNCTAD and ITC. Data are sourced from Eurostat, the OECD, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and national statistical sources. Where possible, reported data are complemented by estimates produced by the WTO, UNCTAD, and ITC.

Commercial services exports/imports by main sector – quarterly (Million US dollar)

Quarterly statistics on total commercial service exports and imports for over 150 individual economies are available. Data refer to exports and imports of total commercial services on a balance of payments basis, at current prices, not seasonally adjusted. Four main sub-categories of total commercial services are available in this dataset: goods-related services, transport services, travel, and other commercial services. In addition, total services, other services and government goods and services n.i.e. are included as memorandum items.

Sources: quarterly trade in commercial services data are jointly produced with UNCTAD and ITC. Data are compiled from Eurostat, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and national statistical sources. Where possible, reported data are complemented by estimates produced by the WTO, UNCTAD, and ITC.

Commercial services exports/imports of selected economies – monthly (Million US dollar)

Monthly statistics on total commercial service exports and imports for over 40 individual economies are available. In general, data refer to exports and imports of total commercial services on a balance of payments basis, at current prices, not seasonally adjusted.

Sources: data are collected directly from national statistical agency official websites where possible; statistics for certain European Union member states are sourced from Eurostat. Statistics for the European Union as a single reporter are sourced from Eurostat and refer to the extra euro area trade of its 28 members.

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2.2 Foreign affiliates statistics (FATS)

FATS - Sales by service sector (inward/outward) (Million US dollar)

FATS - Number of foreign affiliates by service sector (inward/outward) (Number)

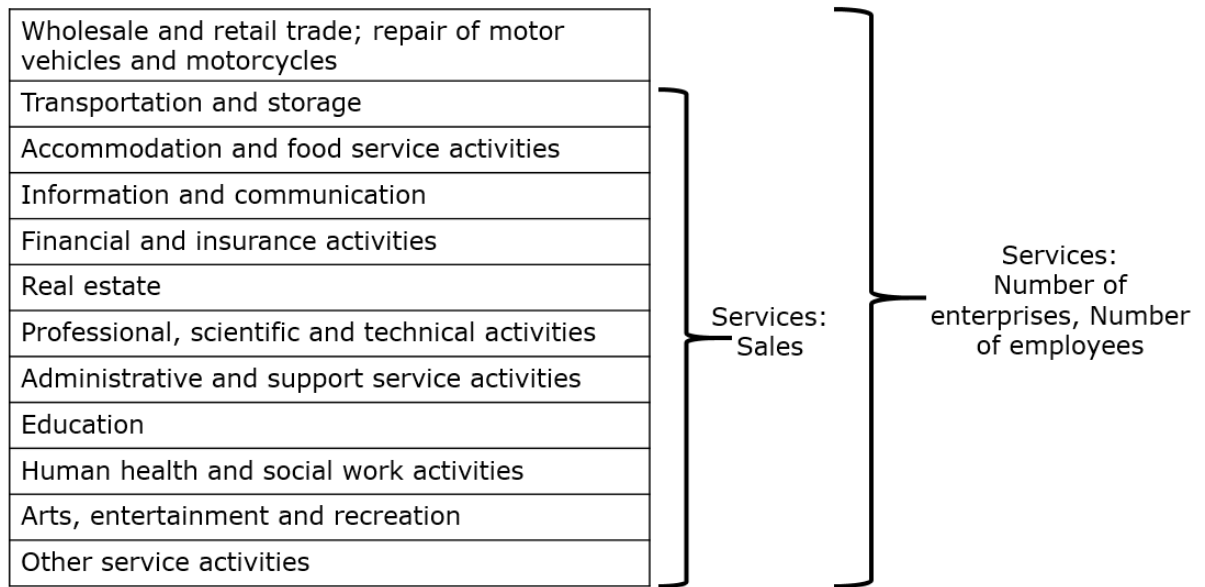
FATS - Number of employees by service sector (inward/outward) (Thousands)

Data on the activities of domestic enterprises controlled by foreign investors are contained in **inward FATS**, while the activities of controlled affiliates of domestic enterprises established abroad are covered in **outward FATS**.

FATS cover several economic variables, and measure also the activities of controlled affiliates in all sectors of the economy. This database contains only data on sales, number of foreign affiliates, and number of employees in affiliates primarily engaged in services activities for around 40 reporters. These indicators are provided by type of primary industrial activity of the affiliates. Unless otherwise specified, the activity classification is based on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 4 (**ISIC Rev. 4**). Where possible, data referring to older years and reported in ISIC rev. 3 where converted into ISIC rev. 4 to present longer time series. Those records are identified in this database with a value flag C ("coverage differs").

The aggregate *Services* covers the industries listed below. For the variable "sales", *Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles* is not covered as the sales of this sector mostly refer to goods and therefore are not relevant for measuring the supply of services through mode 3.

Figure 3: Breakdown of total services (ISIC rev. 4 sections)



For more information, please see the file which contains the [full list of database codes and labels](#), including country and product group definitions.

Sources: data are sourced from Eurostat, the OECD, and national statistical sources.

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2.3 Market access indicators (applied, bound and preferential tariffs, non-tariff measures)

2.3.1 Tariff indicators – Applied

Applied MFN

The indicators are based on the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) tariffs applied by the reporting country/economy. The statistics are available at different levels of aggregation – overall (country level), by sector, by product group, and by different standard levels of the HS (chapter or HS 2-digits, heading or HS 4-digits and subheading or HS 6-digits). These indicators are available on a yearly basis.

Simple average duty (Percent) - Simple average of the MFN ad valorem duty rates or ad valorem equivalents (AVEs) of non-ad valorem duty rates.

Trade weighted average duty (Percent) - MFN applied tariff averages weighted with import flows for traded national tariff lines.

Maximum duty (Percent) - Maximum MFN national tariff line level ad valorem duty or AVE.

National peaks (greater than 3x national average) (Percent) - Share of subheadings subject to ad valorem or AVE MFN duties greater than three times the national average. When only part of the subheading is covered by such duties, the calculation is done on a pro rata basis.

International peaks (greater than 15%) (Percent) - Share of subheadings subject to ad valorem or AVE MFN duties greater than 15%. When only part of the subheading is covered by such duties, the calculation is done on a pro rata basis.

Duty free (Percent) - Share of subheadings in the total number of subheadings in the product group which are MFN duty-free. When only part of the subheading is duty-free, the calculation is done on a pro rata basis.

Duties in duty range (Percent) - Share of tariff lines in a subheading subject to MFN duties within the duty range. When only part of the subheading is covered by such duties, the calculation is done on a pro rata basis.

Non-ad valorem duties (Percent) - Share of subheadings subject to non-ad valorem MFN duties. When only part of the subheading is covered by such duties, the calculation is done on a pro rata basis.

Imports duty free (Percent) - Share of imports which are MFN duty-free. When trade is available at the tariff line level, imports are allocated on a tariff line basis to the respective duty ranges. Otherwise, imports are allocated on a pro rata basis.

Imports in duty range (Percent) - Share of imports in a sub-heading subject to MFN applied duties within the duty range. When trade is available at the tariff line level, imports are allocated on a tariff line basis to the respective duty ranges. Otherwise, imports are allocated on a pro rata basis.

Imports facing non-ad valorem duties (Percent) - Share of imports subject to non-ad valorem MFN applied duties. When only part of the subheading is covered by such duties, imports are allocated on a pro rata basis.

Coefficient of variation (Index) - Standard deviation of MFN tariff line duty rates divided by the simple tariff line level average of all MFN duty rates. Includes only ad valorem duties or AVEs.

Number of distinct duty rates (Number) - Number of distinct MFN duty rates. Non-ad valorem duties are always treated as distinct because AVE calculations would always yield distinct AVEs. For this indicator, however, duties not provided are not included in the count.

Number of applied tariff lines (Number) - Total number of MFN applied tariff lines.

Preferential Tariff

The indicators are based on tariffs applied by one reporting country/economy to its import partner which are lower than the MFN. The preferential rates could be resulting from a reciprocal trading agreement (e.g. free trade agreement or regional trading agreement) or a non-reciprocal preferential trading scheme like the Generalized System of Preference or preferential tariffs for least-developed countries. The statistics are available on a bilateral basis (i.e., tariff applied by the importing country to the products of the exporting country) and only at the HS 6-digit subheading level. Similar to applied tariffs, preferential tariff indicators are available on a yearly basis.

Best preferential simple average ad valorem duty (Percent) - Best or lowest ad valorem preferential applied duty at the HS six-digit subheading level which the exporter (partner) can avail of in the reporter's market. The value refers to the lowest preferential AV duty among the different preferential regimes available to the exporting partner based on all national tariff lines within the subheading. The actual preferential regime corresponding to the lowest rate is displayed as text associated with the value. This indicator is available only at the HS 6-digit level.

2.3.2 Tariff indicators – Bound

Bound

These are the legal maximum tariffs indicated in the official accession document of each WTO member. The bound tariff for each product remains unchanged unless certain legal action is undertaken to have it modified. Hence, bound tariff indicators do not exist as a time series but are indicated with year zero or "final" in the database. The bound tariff refers to the final rate at the end of the implementation period of the concession. However, the schedules of concession are regularly updated to a newer version of the HS and this transposition process could result in changes

in the aggregate statistics. The database contains only the schedule of concession of each WTO member in the latest officially approved HS version.

Binding coverage (Percent) - Share of subheadings containing at least one bound tariff line. The percentage share is also presented separately for non-agricultural (Non-AG) tariff lines. Full binding coverage is indicated by 100 without further decimals. If some tariff lines are unbound but the result still rounds to 100 this is reflected by maintaining one decimal, i.e. 100.0.

Concessions not yet implemented (Percent) - Share of bound subheadings in which there are concessions which are not yet implemented in the current year. When only part of the subheading is covered by such duties the calculation is made on a pro rata basis.

Special Safeguards bound (Percent) - Per cent of subheadings in the schedule of agricultural concessions with at least one tariff line subject to Special Safeguards (SSG). Partial coverage is taken into account on a pro rata basis.

Bound tariff quotas (Percent) - Per cent of subheadings in the schedule of agricultural concessions covered by tariff quotas. Partial coverage is taken into account on a pro rata basis.

Bound by detailed HS codes/other duties and charges

Simple average ad valorem duty (Percent) - Simple average of the ODCs ad valorem or AVE duty averages by detailed HS codes (2,4,6 digits).

Number of national tariff lines (Number) - Total number of ODCs national tariff lines by detailed HS codes (2,4,6 digits).

Number of non-ad valorem tariff lines (Number) - Total number of ODCs non-ad-valorem tariff lines by detailed HS codes (2,4,6 digits).

2.3.3 Export perspective in top 5 markets

The indicators are the market access conditions faced by the exports of the reporting country/economy in its top five export markets. The following indicators are available for Ag and Non-Ag products separately.

Rank based on exports value to partner (Number) - Name and rank of the top 5 markets for the exports of reporting country/economy.

Trade weighted average preferential duty faced (Percent) - Trade-weighted average preferential duty faced by the exports of the reporting country/economy.

Trade weighted average MFN applied duty faced (Percent) - Trade-weighted average MFN duty.

Simple average MFN applied duty faced (Percent) - Simple average of MFN duties based only on tariff lines with imports.

Trade weighted average preferential margin (Percent) - Trade-weighted average difference between the MFN duty and the most advantageous preferential duty. Tariff lines where either MFN or preferential duties cannot be expressed in ad valorem terms have been excluded.

Value of exports to partner (imports by partner) (US\$) - Total exports of the reporting country/economy.

Share of duty free exports to partner (Percent) - Share of duty-free trade in per cent of all bilateral trade flows; includes duty-free preferential treatment. Partially duty-free subheadings are taken into account on a pro rata basis if tariff line imports are not available.

Share of duty free tariff lines exported to partner (Percent) - Duty-free tariff lines in per cent of all bilateral trade flows; includes duty-free preferential treatment. Partially duty-

free subheadings are taken into account on a pro rata basis if tariff line imports are not available.

HS chapters exported to partner (Number) - Number of HS Chapters with trade flows after exclusion of 5 per cent of smallest bilateral tariff line trade flows.

HS subheadings exported to partner (Number) - Number of HS six-digit subheadings with trade flows after exclusion of 5 per cent of smallest bilateral tariff line trade flows.

2.3.4 Non-tariff measures indicators

The non-tariff measure indicators are based on Members' notifications of non-tariff trade policy measures related to specific WTO Agreements. The specific measures can be found in the [Integrated Trade Intelligence Portal](#) (I-TIP) goods database.

Measures taken as importer

Measures initiated (Number) - Number of investigations initiated by the country as importer.

Final measures implemented (Number) - Number of final measures implemented by the country as importer.

Final measures withdrawn (Number) - Number of final measures withdrawn or revoked by the country as importer.

Final measures in force (Cumulated) (Number) - Number of final measures in effect on products imported by the country.

Products covered (Number of HS 6-digit) by final measures in effect (Number) - Number of distinct HS 6-digit subheadings covered (fully or partially) by products on which final measures by the importing country were in force.

Measures faced as exporter

Measures initiated (Number) - Number of investigations initiated on products exported by the country.

Final measures implemented (Number) - Number of final measures implemented on products exported by the country.

Final measures withdrawn (Number) - Number of final measures on products exported by the country withdrawn or revoked.

Final measures in force (Cumulated) (Number) - Number of final measures in effect on products exported by the country.

Products covered (Number of HS 6-digit) by final measures in effect (Number) - Number of distinct HS 6-digit subheadings covered (fully or partially) by products on which the country as exporter is subject to final measures.

The types of non-tariff measures covered by these indicators include:

Anti-dumping

Dumping occurs when goods are exported at a price less than their normal value, generally meaning they are exported for less than they are sold in the domestic market or third-country markets, or at less than production cost. The WTO Agreement does not regulate the actions of companies engaged in "dumping". Its focus is on how governments can or cannot react to dumping - it disciplines anti-dumping actions, and it is often called the "Anti-dumping Agreement".

The Anti-Dumping Agreement obliges WTO Members to submit several types of notification to the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices. The database is updated based on the semi-annual reports compiled by the committee.

Countervailing

Action taken by the importing country, usually in the form of increased duties to offset subsidies given to producers or exporters in the exporting country.

Similar to the Anti-Dumping Agreement, the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures obliges WTO Members to submit notification of any countervailing duty on subsidized imports from identified partner countries. The I-TIP is updated based on the semi-annual reports compiled by the committee.

Safeguards

A WTO member may take a "safeguard" action (i.e., restrict imports of a product temporarily) to protect a specific domestic industry from an increase in imports of any product which is causing, or which is threatening to cause, serious injury to the industry.

The safeguard measures indicators presented are based on the notifications made by WTO Members to the Committee on Safeguards. The I-TIP information is updated periodically.

SPS and TBT

SPS and TBT measures are notified by WTO members mostly concern regulations and standards, which are dealt with under the WTO's Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures Agreement and the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement. Under these agreements, WTO members are obliged to notify in advance any intention to introduce new SPS/TBT measures or to modify existing measures and to notify immediately when emergency measures are imposed.

By complying with the SPS/TBT notification obligations, WTO members are able to keep other members fully informed about new or changed regulations that may significantly affect trade. Therefore, an increased number of notifications does not automatically imply greater use of protectionist measures, but rather enhanced transparency regarding these measures.

The SPS/TBT notifications received by the WTO may underestimate the actual number of implemented measures as there is no legal obligation to notify all measures. Indeed, members have no obligation to notify measures which are mostly identical to international standards, guidelines or recommendations. However, members are recommended to do so. Furthermore, WTO members have not notified all SPS/TBT measures that they are supposed to report to the WTO.

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3 DISCLAIMER

The statistical data in this database are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant statistical authorities. In line with the practice of the WTO Secretariat, this database uses the names of Members as listed in the latest revision to the WTO document WT/INF/43. References to other geographical territories and groupings are based solely on terms provided to the WTO Secretariat by WTO Members and Observers or terms used by relevant international organizations.

The use of such data and terms does not constitute or imply an expression of opinion by the WTO Secretariat concerning the status of any country or territory, or the delimitation of its frontiers, or sovereignty.

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