

Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians

Labour mobility and Trade in services


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UN Interagency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (TFITS)

- Services and merchandise trade statistics TFs established in early 1990s, meeting jointly since 2008
- Convenors: WTO and OECD, other members: IMF, UNSD, UNCTAD, UNWTO, Eurostat (regular face-to-face meetings and year-long exchanges)
- Coordinate work of international organisations on statistics of merchandise trade and services trade
 - (meta) data collection, sharing, processing and dissemination;
 - conceptual work (standards, classification, compilation problems): **Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (2010 edition)**;
 - technical assistance (i.e. implementation), **compilation guidance**: first edition released in December 2014
- For services: led by WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) information needs
- Collaboration with ILO, also regular contacts with UNECE, IOM in context of GATS mode 4 and labour mobility discussions




GATS Modes of Supply and labour mobility

GATS: «legal» definition of trade in services, identification of 4 ways of supplying services internationally, of which:


Mode 4: Supply of services through Presence of natural persons

COUNTRY A



Consumer

COUNTRY B



Natural person

A self-employed goes to country A

An employee is sent by a company of country B

Services contracts, temporarily: not (short or long term) migrants!


+other aspects linked to other modes (instrumental): but more linked to labour migration (short or long term).

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What do we need to measure?

- Value of services trade flows**
For mode 4: included under Balance of Payments Services Statistics
- Additional indicators:**
For mode 4: "labour mobility statistics" related to the international supply of services

Mode 4: Remittances and compensation of employees are not measures of mode 4 trade!!



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Mode 4, migration, tourism statistics (1/2)

Purpose of trip or migration	Length of stay of individuals		
	Less than 3 months	3 to 12 months	more than 12 months
IRTS 2008 categories			
Visits / trips			
Personal			
Holiday, leisure and recreation			
Visiting friends and relatives			
Education and training			
Health and medical care			
Religion/pilgrimages			
Shopping			
Transit entering eco./legal territory			
Other			
Business and professional (no employer-employee relationship with entity established in compiling economy)		X	
Contractual service supply		X	
- By self-employed		X	
- By employee		X	
of which intracorporate		X	
Serv. sales / commercial pres. negotiation		X	
- serv. salespersons' commercial pres. of serv. producer negotiation		X	
- commercial pres. of goods producing company negotiation		X	
Other (incl. meetings, conferences, etc)			

Source: MSITS2010, chapter V

Mode 4, migration, tourism statistics (2/2)

Purpose of trip or migration	Length of stay of individuals		
	Less than 3 months	3 to 12 months	more than 12 months
RSIM Rev.1 categories			
Employment (migrant workers, employment-based settlement)			
Intra corporate transfer:			
- In services producing company			X
- other			X
Directly recruited by a foreign established:			
- services producing company			X
- other			
International civil servants			
Other			
Trainees			
Family reunification/formation			
Family based settlement; Ancestry based settlement			
Retiree settlement			
Entrepreneurs and investors settlement			X
Humanitarian reasons (refugees, etc.)			
Border workers; Frequent crossers; Nomads			
Transit not entering economic/legal territory			
Diplomatic/consular personnel; Military pers.			

Source: MSITS2010, chapter V


**Mode 4 number of persons:
possible sources** (in MSITS2010 Compiler's Guide)

Discussions with ILO, UNECE, OECD, Eurostat, IOM

- Migration authorities or other administrative sources
- Censuses
- Specialised enterprise in services surveys
- Labour surveys
- Household survey
- Visitor survey → UNWTO Model border survey

Need for cooperation between different institutions !

Questions to separately identify mode 4 within visitors, or to differentiate with labour migration.... but with breakdowns.... Identifying?




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**Measuring Mode 4
New experiences??**

+ Brazil
+ Canada
+ Germany
+ New Zealand
+ Honk Kong, China
+ United States
+ Austria
+ Zambia
+ Colombia
+ Spain
+ Others...

- External stimulus/cooperation often needed (e.g. Trade ministry)
- Respondents (and users) to be “educated”, need to **keep relevant records** (cost effectiveness)
- More information, enhancing quality of survey
- Need to evaluate existing sources and identify all **synergy effects** (e.g. micro-data linking, data exchanges between countries)

When not collected: best simplified compilation method?



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Our views....

- Big confusion between mode 4 services trade - labour migration
- Lack of relevant data (in particular clear distinctions) hamper policy decision making (international trade negotiations, (labour) migration policy etc.) and economic analysis:
 - A particularly important question in the region (EU and beyond)
 - Productivity indicators, national accounts statistics, etc.
- Terminology counts
- More coordination at international level needed to clarify
 - SNA2008, BPM6, Tourism ITRS/TSA 2008 did so (with support of TFITS)
 - Unclear distinctions in international migration recommendations (in particular employment related mobility/labour migration vs. services trade related mobility)
- Need for more collaboration (TFITS + ILO, IOM, and other experts in IOs and national offices) to improve understanding and obtain relevant data serving all (policy-making) needs
 - As a starting point MSITS2010 CG could be used
 - Importance of technical assistance to countries (knowledge sharing)

