

Brainstorming session:

Preliminary draft of the latest Working Group paper

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Updated Draft Outline

Data gaps

Pressing service trade policy issues

Good practices

Priorities and recommendations

Survey summary - General insights

Responded Institutions

In total 20 responses, including government agencies, international organizations, service sector association, research institutions, experts on service trade.

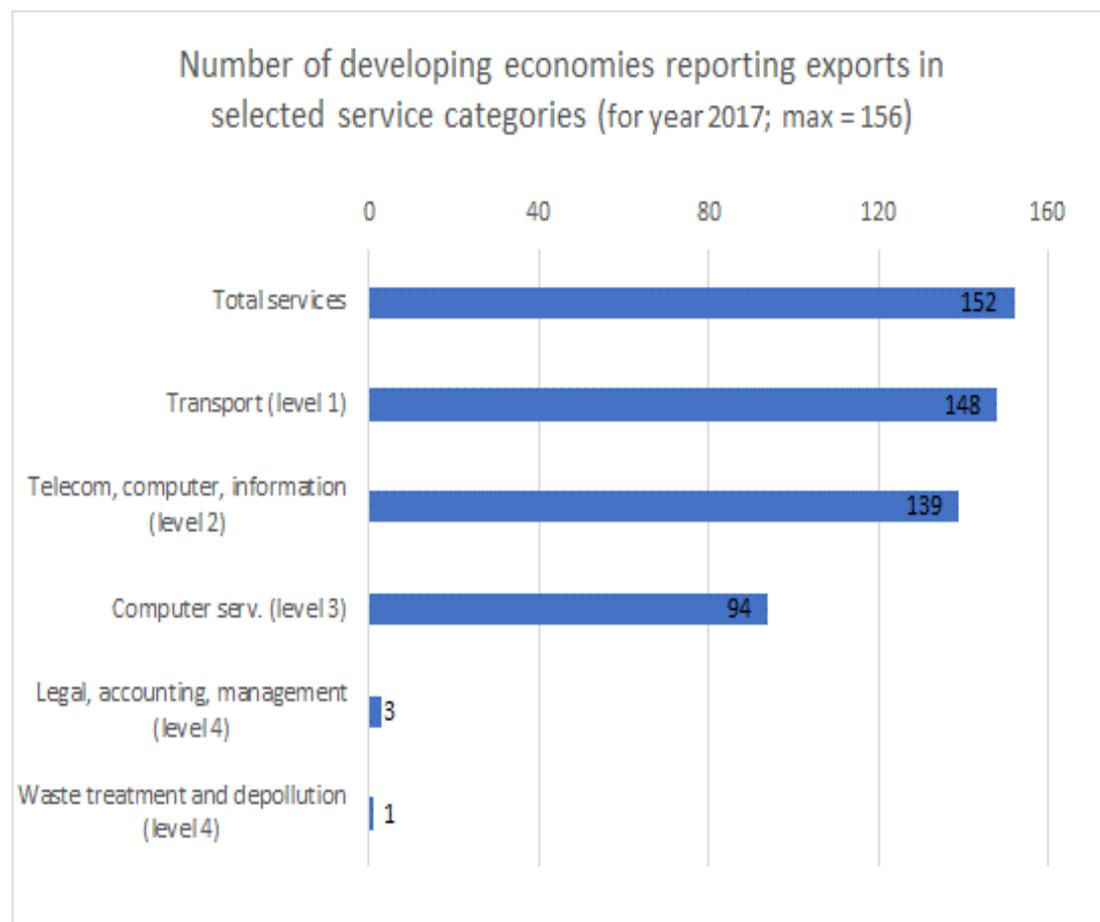
Common Concerns

The need for granular data to aid policy-making and economic assessments, especially in developing countries.

Highlighted Challenges

Lack of detailed trade data, regulatory impact information, and inadequate data collection resources.

Most pressing Trade in Service Data Gaps



- Disaggregated data for trade in services by sectors
- Trade-in services by partner economies, especially in developing countries
- Mode-of-supply data is insufficient, which is critical for assessing how services are delivered across borders

Pressing policy issues

What are some of the pressing services trade policy needs?

Digitally Traded Services

Enterprise / micro-level data for informed decision-making

Socio-economic impact of trade in services (e.g., employment, gender, green-driven)

Understanding value added from integration of services and manufacturing

Suggestive key indicators

Macroeconomic

International trade

Labor market

Technology and digital

Business and administrative data

What are some of the potential innovative ways to use existing data?

E-platform for processing international service trade statistics

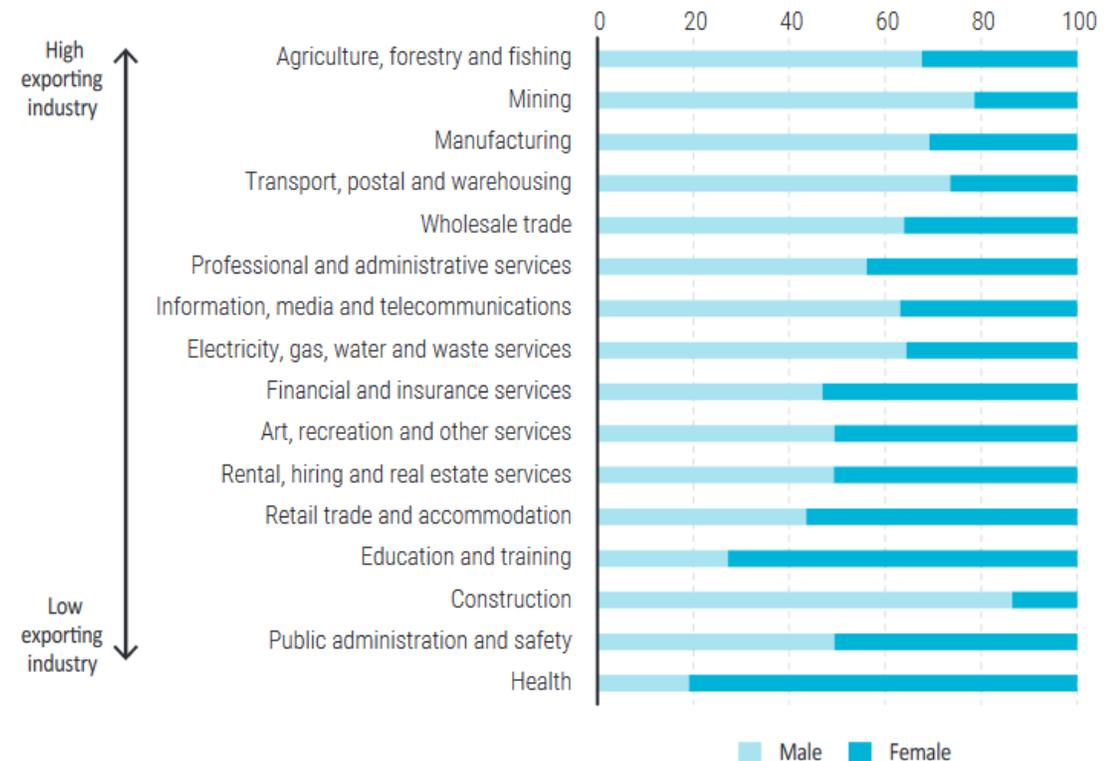
Linkage with administrative data and social statistics (e.g., gender data, investment, price data, tax data, etc)

Good practices

Innovative use of administrative data

- Work of Voorburg's group in refining output and price indices for service industries
- Gender in trade statistics - framework evaluates preconditions for women's and men's engagement in international trade across various roles

Gender Share of industry export, Stats New Zealand



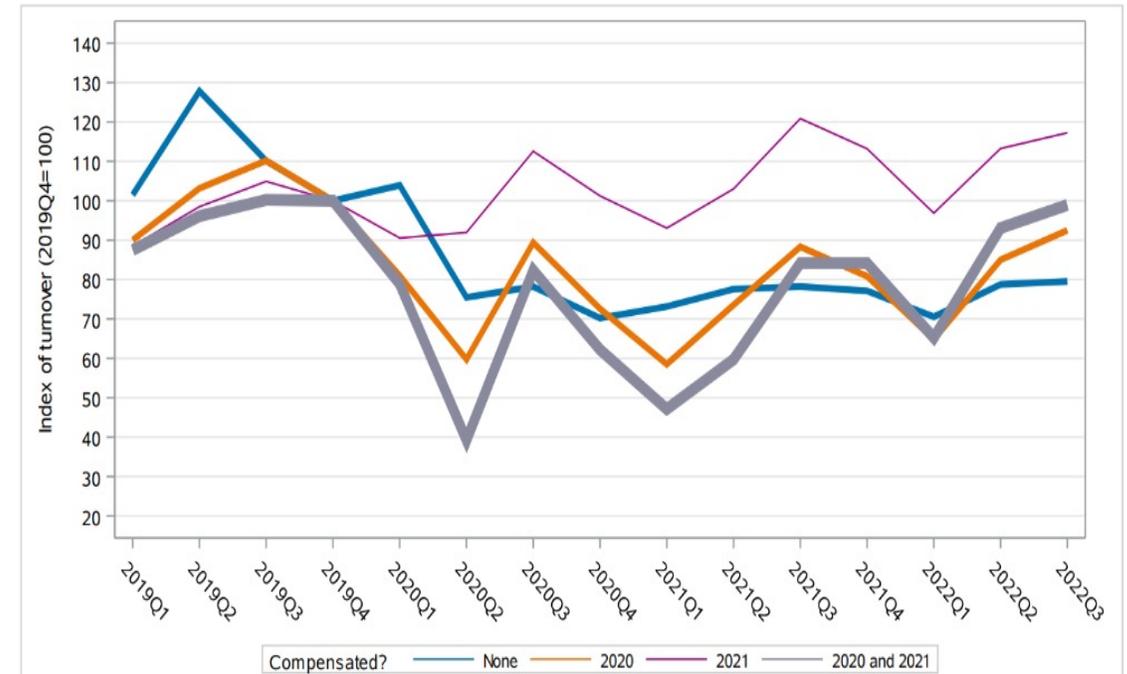
Source: UNCTAD, 2023

Good practices

Innovative use of administrative data

- Turkiye - use of VAT declarations in account for 1% of export and 2% of import, not captured by survey.
- Finland - VAT data supplements or replaces survey data, validates findings, and aids in imputation for missing data.
- Finland – Turnover data based on VAT to measure shocks.

Enterprises' recovery from the pandemic and the effect of subsidies



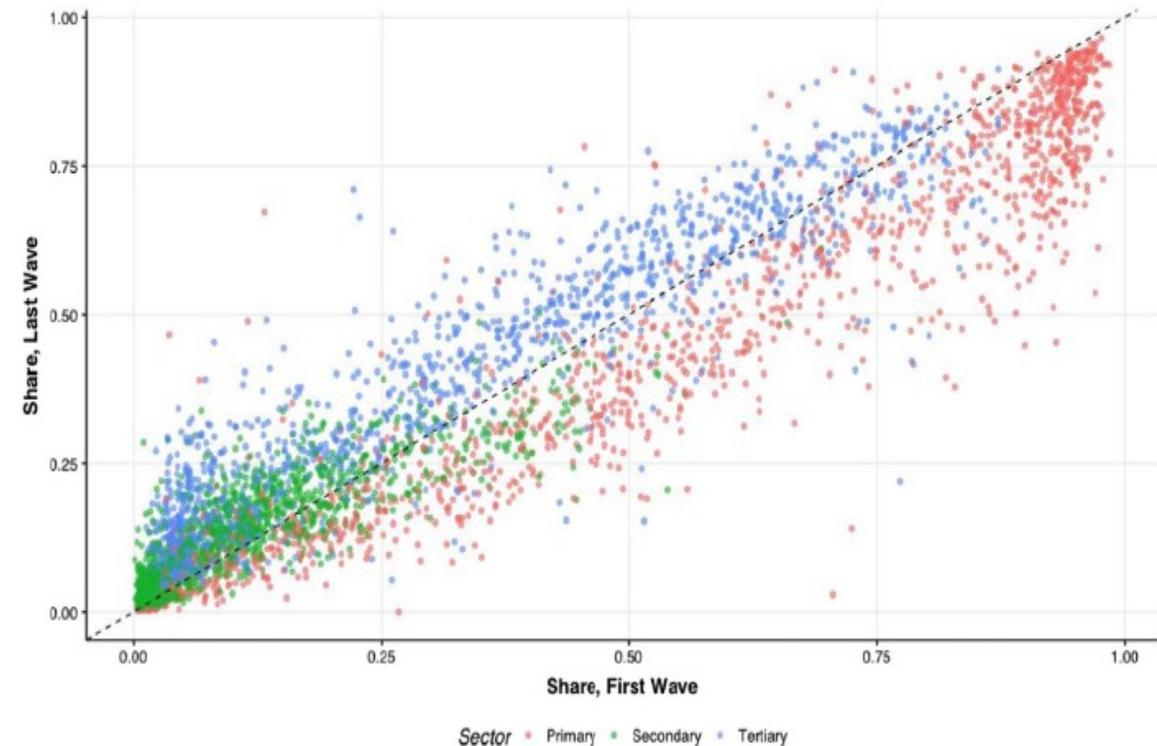
Source: Statistics Finland

Good practices

Use of micro level data

- Baccini and al. (2023), they examined the employment structure across 13 African economies at the administrative unit level.
- In Hoekman and al. (2023), they examined how FDI influence the process of structural transformation at the sub-national level across a sample of 24 African over a span of 30 years.
- In Hoekman and al. (2022), the focus lies on examining the correlation between labour productivity of manufacturing sectors and two trade-related policies: restrictions on FDI in services and restrictions on international payments for invisibles, which affect modes 1 and 3.

Structural Transformation at the Subnational Level



Source: Baccini and al. (2023)

Good practices

Use of micro level data

- The Inter-American Development Bank works on firm-level trade data on services combined with administrative sources, including tax records, customs declarations, data from investment and trade promotion agencies, and social security records.
- Uruguay case – assessing determinants of firms' services trade performance and evaluating the impact of public policies aimed at supporting firms in exporting

Who the services exporters are, Uruguay 2016

	Number of Employees	Age (years)	Share of Exports	Has Imports	Sells to Exporters	Buys from Exporters	Sells to MNEs	Buys from MNEs
Exporting Status					Mean			
Goods and Services	78	26	0.20	0.82	0.82	0.96	0.81	0.93
Only Goods	104	23	0.36	0.74	0.76	0.95	0.72	0.90
Only Services	28	15	0.34	0.24	0.59	0.80	0.66	0.73
No Exp	14	18	0.00	0.12	0.48	0.82	0.46	0.70

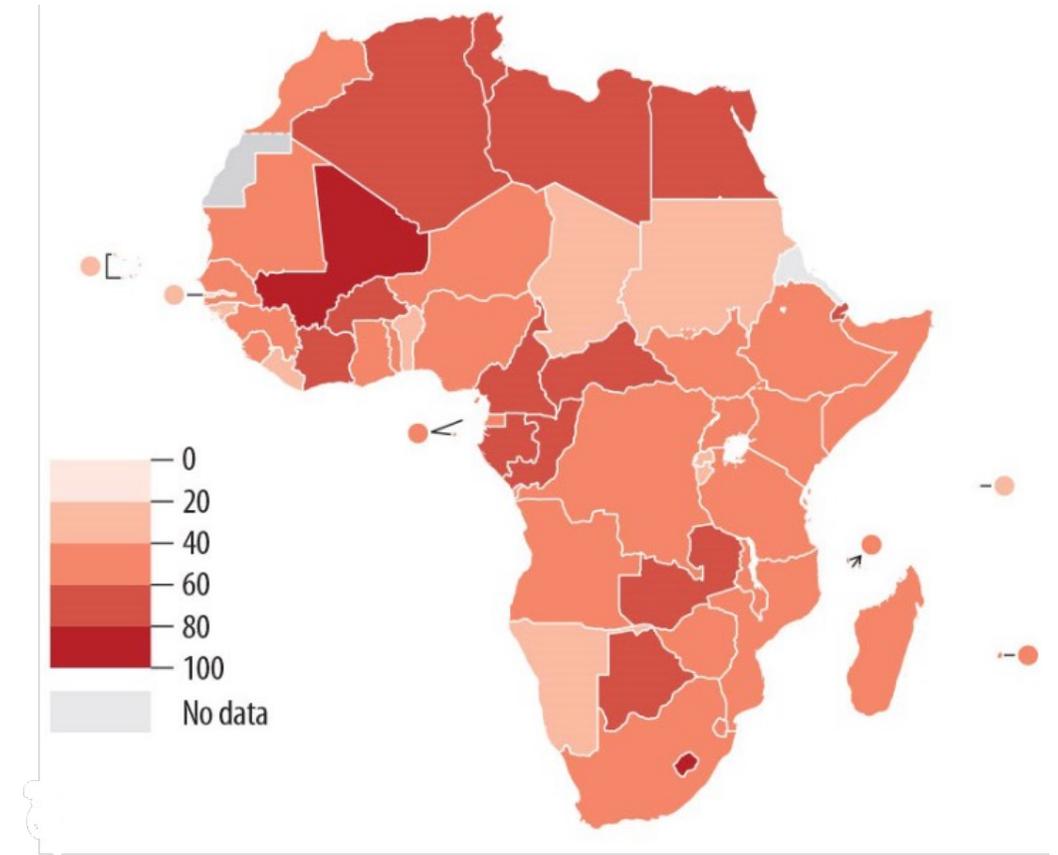
Source: IADB

Good practices

Analysis using regulatory barriers

- Baiker and al. (2023) used STRIs to assess services trade policies across 54 African economies:
 - For instance, in the transportation sector, the study reveals relatively high levels of restrictiveness among more industrialized African economies, potentially impeding their connectivity and hindering international integration prospects.
- Regulatory harmonization across borders is also critical.
 - For example, an ongoing study from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) showed that in engineering services, higher restrictions on trade services are associated with a lower number of patents for the integration of renewable energy sources and buildings.

STRI across 54 African economies – Transport services



Source: Baiker and al. (2023)

Good practices

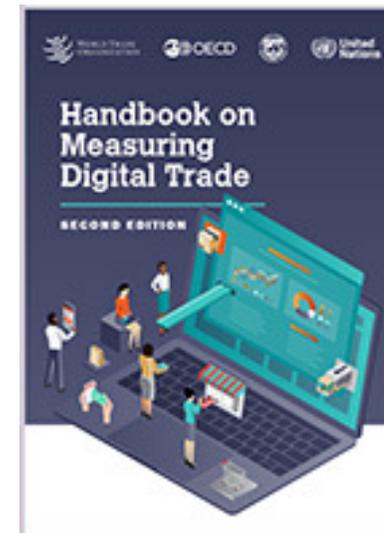
Strengthening data collection

- UNCTAD has developed the Trade-in-Services Information System (TiSSTAT) to streamline the collection and analysis of statistics on international trade in services.
- The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) has begun a consultancy to strengthen the capacity of business support organizations and private firms.
- Measuring digital trade and measuring the value of e-commerce

Modular IT system - TiSSTAT



Source:UNCTAD



Priorities and recommendation



Enhancing International Support for Capacity Building

Address global service trade data deficiencies, particularly in LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS.

Web portal on trade in services knowledge sharing Hub

Enhance IT infrastructure to improve global data exchange and analysis capabilities.

Streamline support strategies by synchronizing efforts of international and regional entities.



Leveraging Advanced Data for Informed Policymaking

Integrate big data sources to modernize service sector analytics.

Address data gaps through detailed sectoral analysis in critical service sectors.

Innovative statistical frameworks that include metrics for embodied services, inputs value-added trade, and digitally deliverable trade



Promoting Inter-Government Agency Collaboration

Enhance collaboration among government agencies to improve accessibility and utility of firm-level data.

Improve interagency data sharing to support economic analysis and policy development.

Facilitate comprehensive access to firm-level data to enrich economic strategy design and implementation.

Thank you

