Third Meeting of the Informal Working Group on Data for Services Trade and Development Policies
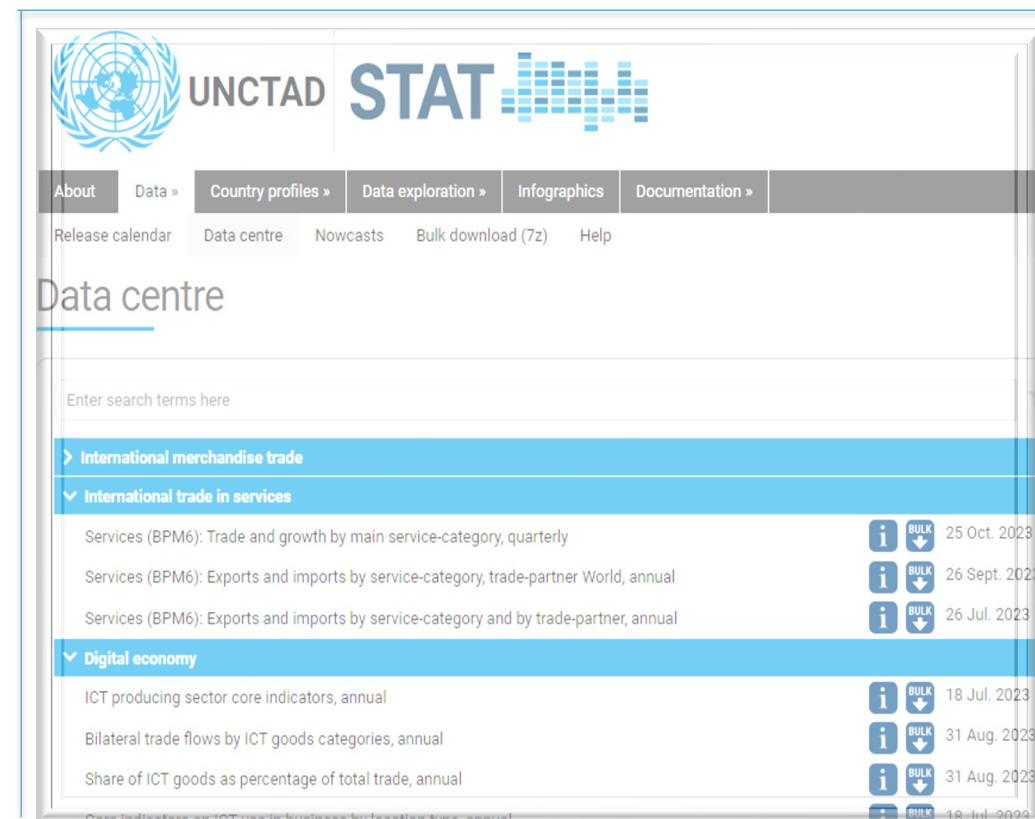
20 November 2023

Statistics on International Trade in Services

Data Availability for Developing Economies

UNCTADstat –> International trade in services statistics

- The most complete data set on international trade in services based on **official statistics**

- SOURCES: IMF, OECD, EUROSTAT, other international and national agencies

- Enriched by estimates based on official statistics

- Individual economies and groups of economies: values, market shares, growth rates

- 200 economies covered: 156 developing: 46 LDCs

- Annual and quarterly statistics; joint work with WTO

- Annual data include total trade (partner World) and trade by bilateral partner-economy

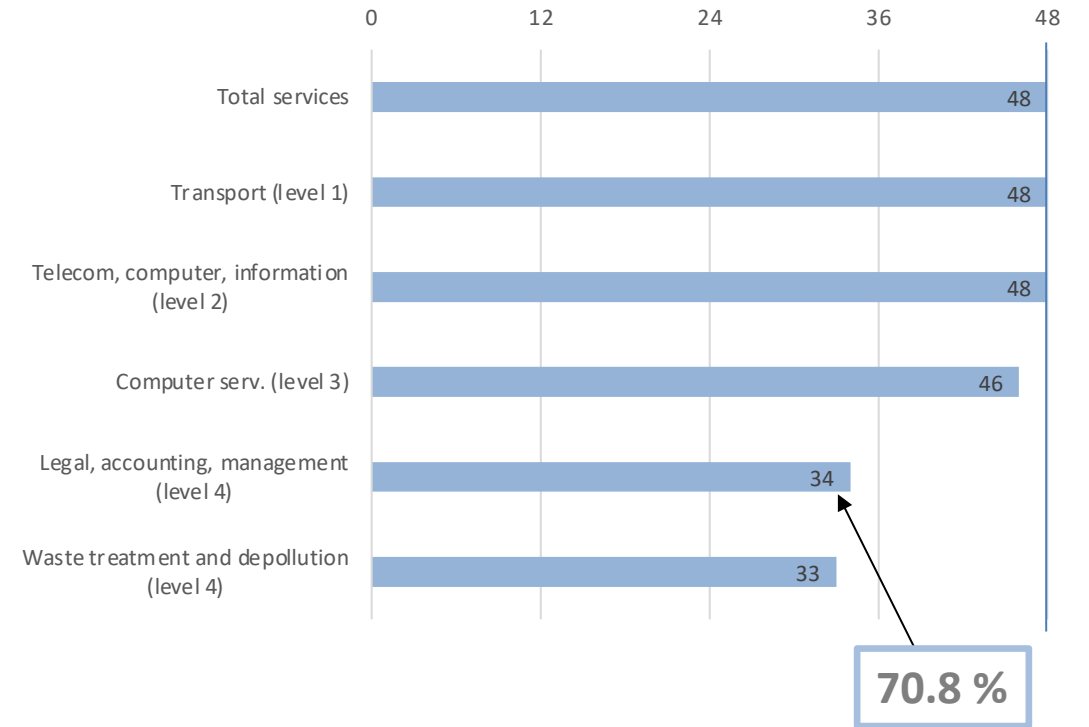*https://unctadstat.unctad.org/datacentre/dataviewer/US.TradeServCatTotal*

Statistics on the statistics on international trade in services

Number of developing economies reporting exports in selected service categories (for year 2017; max = 156)

Category	Value
Total services	152
Transport (level 1)	148
Telecom, computer, information (level 2)	139
Computer serv. (level 3)	94
Legal, accounting, management (level 4)	3
Waste treatment and depollution (level 4)	1

1.9 %

Number of developed economies reporting exports in selected service categories (for year 2017; max = 48)

Category	Value
Total services	48
Transport (level 1)	48
Telecom, computer, information (level 2)	48
Computer serv. (level 3)	46
Legal, accounting, management (level 4)	34
Waste treatment and depollution (level 4)	33

70.8 %

Source: UNCTAD; Refers to official statistics and official estimates

Trade in services statistics have improved significantly

The count summary:

out of '156' developing economies

- less than 10 economies – no reporting

- 15 economies – only top-level items

- 140 economies – 12 main categories

- 90 economies – sub-items of 12 main categories (level 3)

- less than 8 economies report details for sub-items at levels 4 or 5

- less than 8 economies report bilateral trade partner data

Significant improvement since 2005

- Countries made efforts and investments

- Technical assistance by UNCTAD, UNSD, WTO, IMF, regional organizations ...

UNCTAD: Train-for-Trade **e-Learning course**
-> over 3000 participants since 2019,
    mainly from developing economies

UNCTAD - UEMOA Commission
Trade in Services Statistics Information System
-ready to use, modular, adjustable
-interested countries can use it to enhance their trade
 in services statistics and address the data gaps

Developing economies' statistics on international trade in services

<u>WHAT is missing?</u>

1. Prerequisite: Regularly updated quality Statistical Business Registers

2. Trade by partner-economy :
    -at least top 5 partners, per 12 main items of EBOPS

3. Items sub-details: granularity for specific analysis (EBOPS level 4 and 5)

4. Links to micro-data: to industry and enterprise statistics
    -exploit new technologies, follow emerging new practices

5. Mode-of-supply (including via simplified allocations based on international recommendations)

Thank you

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