A global multi-region input-output time series at high country and sector detail

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There are a number of initiatives aimed at compiling large-scale global Multi-Region Input-Output (MRIO) tables complemented with non-monetary information such as on resource flows and environmental burdens. Traditionally, MRIO construction and usage has been hampered by a lack of geographical and sectoral detail; currently the most advanced initiatives opt for a breakdown into around 50 regions and 120 sectors common to all countries. Further shortcomings are the absence of a continuous time series, margins and tax sheets, and information on reliability and uncertainty. Despite these limitations, constructing a large MRIO requires significant manual labour and many years of time. This paper describes an Australian project aimed at creating an MRIO account that: represents all countries at a detailed sectoral level, allows continuous updating, provides information on data reliability, contains table sheets expressed in basic prices as well as all margins and taxes, and contains a historical time series. We achieve these goals through a high level of procedural standardisation, automation, and data organisation. Because of the properties listed above, our research is aimed at achieving a quantum leap in MRIO compilation.