

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION EUROSTAT

Directorate C: Economic and monetary statistics

**Unit C-2: Economic Accounts** 



## European Union Data for Input-Output and General Equilibrium Modelling

Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities based in Luxembourg, collects data for the European Union. Specific regulations fix the organisation of the data provision and interchange within the European Statistical System. As a general rule the data are compiled by the National Statistical Offices (NSI) and transmitted to Eurostat within certain deadlines. Eurostat validates the received figures for quality - mainly for completeness, compliance and consistency, calculates European aggregates - and releases these data for all Member States via dedicated publication servers, specific extraction services or paper publications.

One of the main data sources for economic modelling should be established by the European System of Accounts, ESA 95, as defined by the "Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 of 25 June 1996 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the Community (OJ L 310, 30.11.1996, p. 1)". The title seems quite self-explaining and in the context of this conference there is no room for a presentation of this legal document comprising of 520 pages. Let us rather focus on one chapter or domain: the "Input-Output Framework".

Input-output has a long tradition in Eurostat but is a quite 'young' domain of ESA 95 in terms of compulsory delivery of statistics. The first transmissions by NSI were due by end of 2002. In particular, the statisticians of the Member States are in charge of providing five tables each for their countries: supply table (ESA 95 no. 1500), use table (1600), the symmetric input-output table (1700) and the split of the latter to domestic production (1800) and imports (1900). Backwards calculation starts in 1995; supply and use tables have to be transmitted annually, the symmetric tables five-yearly. In all cases the deadline for delivery is t+36 months. This means in practical terms that in summer 2004 Eurostat should have the tables 1500 and 1600 for all years from 1995 to 2000 and tables 1700 to 1900 for the years 1995 and 2000. This relates to the 14 countries of the EU 15 (Ireland has a derogation still valid). The ten new Members were not obliged to deliver before May of this year when they have joined the Union. As expected it will in general take some time until these NSI will be able to cover this domain, but there are some new Members which already provide excellent material.

Although the ambitious target of ESA 95 for this domain could not yet be fully achieved Eurostat has a comprehensive list of tables in stock which should be interesting for researchers. For an overview of the current situation please have a look to Annex 1. The table displays the situation in detail for current prices. In principle, NSI were also invited to produce equivalent tables at constant prices of a previous or a base year. However, as the transmission process and discussion with the compilers have shown, only a minority

of the NSI would be able to produce these on a regular basis. For a revision of ESA 95 transmissions Eurostat has proposed to drop constant price tables from the programme.

ESA 95 foresees a disaggregation to 60 products according to CPA Rev 1.1 classification and to 60 industries according to NACE A60 classification. This level of detail is certainly much lower than what experienced NSI offer on the national layer. But on the European scale the focus is on international comparability; a moderate grade of detail had to be chosen. Components of value added distinguish compensation of employees, other net taxes on production, consumption of fixed capital, operating surplus and mixed income. Final demand disaggregates final consumption by three different sectors, gross fixed capital formation, changes in inventories and in valuables and of course exports and imports. International trade should be further broken down to intra and extra of the Monetary Union. The supply table is provided at basic prices including valuation columns on trade and transport margins and taxes less subsidies on products for the transformation into purchaser prices. The latter is as well the price concept for the use table. The three symmetric tables are calculated in basic prices.

The Input-output domain is not prioritised in Eurostat's production programme. As a consequence, resources for this domain are extremely limited. Logically, the efforts to manage the data have to be adapted to this situation. Eurostat validates incoming transmissions on compliance with the standardised scheme of tables, on internal consistency of each of the tables and across different tables. In the future, checks for consistency with other statistics of the same country shall be intensified. When errors, discrepancies or important gaps become obvious and cannot be resolved by Eurostat itself it gets back to the national compilers and requests updates or additional information. Most often this leads to enhancements but a few of the requirements cannot yet be solved by all NSI.

In case this abstract has caught your interest and you would like to receive tables or more details, there are different ways to succeed. You may visit Eurostat's dissemination server New Cronos; currently access to this server is restricted but it will become open to the public by October and all downloads will be offered free of charge (web-address can be named in the presentation). You may address your branch of the datashops via Eurostat's <a href="https://example.com/homepage">homepage</a>. However, it must be noted that the datashops organisation is subject to thorough re-organisation (an updated reference can be provided during the conference). Or, persons interested may directly contact the author.

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